

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 11-19 are pending in this application after this amendment. Claims 1-19 have been rejected. The Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of claims 1-19. However, the Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 9, 11, 12, and 16, and cancelled claims 3 and 10 with this amendment for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the goals of the Patent Office (65 Fed. Reg. 54603), and/or to clarify what the Applicants regard as the present invention. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 1. Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 10. Claim 11 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 9. Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 9. Claim 16 has been amended to merely clarify the claim language. No new matter is believed to have been added by this amendment. Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 6-9, and 14-19

Claims 1, 6-9, and 14-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,064,140 issued to Zumeris ("Zumeris"). The Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection of independent claims 1, 9 and 16 as amended should be withdrawn.

As provided above, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3. The Patent Office did not reject Claim 3 based on Zumeris. Accordingly, the anticipation rejection of claim 1 based on Zumeris should be withdrawn. Further, claims 6-8 depend upon claim 1. Accordingly, the anticipation rejection of claims 6-8 based on Zumeris should also be withdrawn.

Further, claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 10. The Patent Office did not reject Claim 10 based on Zumeris. Accordingly, the anticipation rejection of claim 9 based on Zumeris should be withdrawn. Further, claims 14 and 15 depend upon claim 9. Accordingly, the anticipation rejection of claims 14 and 15 based on Zumeris should also be withdrawn.

Regarding claims 16-19, the Applicants traverse 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection based on Zumeris. More specifically, Zumeris discloses in Figure 14B a ceramic motor 172, a stage 160 that is mounted on a rod 162 and a worm 168 via a rack 170. The ceramic motor 172 rotates a wheel 174 mounted on the end of the worm 168. (see column 13, lines 24-42 and Figure 14B). The wheel 174 and the worm 168 are rotated by the motor 172 about an axis. The motor 172 does not move the wheel 174 and the worm 168 along an axis.

In contrast to Zumeris, claim 16 requires a “method ...comprising the steps of: providing a motor and a motor output that is moved by the motor along a first axis; coupling the motor output to the object with a stage; and guiding the motion of the stage along the first axis and inhibiting motion of the stage about a second axis that is orthogonal to the first axis with a stage guide.” (emphasis added)

Because Zumeris does not teach or disclose these features, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection, and a possible 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection based on Zumeris is believed to be inappropriate. Further, claims 17-19 depend upon claim 16. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims based on Zumeris should also be withdrawn.

Claims 1-19

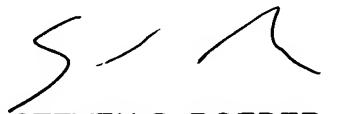
Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,911,763 issued to Ziegler et al. (“Ziegler et al.”). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. More specifically, Ziegler et al. does not qualify as prior art for the present invention. Ziegler et al. has a filing date of May 30, 2003, while that present invention claims priority on U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/464,875 filed on April 22, 2003. Accordingly, Ziegler et al. is not prior art, and the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 11-19 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1, 2, 4-9, and 11-19 are patentable for the reasons set forth above, and that the application is now in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 858-456-1951 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,



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